



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 25, 1994

Mr. Alan Wilson  
Senior Reclamation Engineer  
Hecla Mining Company  
6500 Mineral Drive  
Box C-8000  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

Re: Request for Supplemental Reclamation Plan Information, Hecla Mining Company,  
Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wilson:

A recent Division survey of the Escalante Silver mine files and closer examination of the reclamation surety estimate, indicates that certain detailed information is lacking regarding the reclamation proposal for the mill and associated operations buildings. Our files suggest that this was recognized as early as 1989. By letter dated September 5, 1989, Mr. Brent Willoughby, of Hecla Mining Company (HMC), committed to provide the Division with a detailed reclamation plan for the mill and associated operation buildings (mine offices, shop/warehouse, etc.). To date, this information has not been received by the Division (copy of letter attached).

Because the existing mining and reclamation plan contains very limited information describing the actual decommissioning details, reclamation of affected areas and cost breakdown associated with same, the Division is hereby requesting that this information be provided. We will not be able to seek approval from the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining of HMC's present \$771,000 reclamation surety bond at this time. Once we have had an opportunity to review the requested information, we will reevaluate the reclamation surety estimate and advise you accordingly of any necessary changes. Given the status of the ongoing reclamation of the tailings impoundment, we do not anticipate that additional monies will be required. However, we cannot confirm this until we have had an opportunity to review the supplemental information.

During a recent telephone conversation (4/19/94), you informed me that approximately 20 acres of mine property had been sold by Hecla that may have involved the office complex and parking areas. You also indicated that another 20 acre parcel may be put

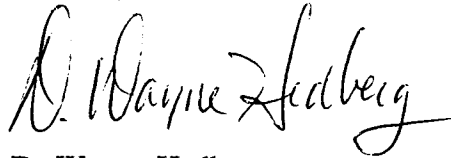


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M/021/004  
April 28, 1994

up for sale soon. You stated it was your understanding that portions of the mill facility have been dismantled and transferred to your Grouse Creek mine project in Idaho and that it was HMC's intent to hopefully transport the remaining milling equipment to your Rosebud mine project in Nevada. Our files contain no record of these plans/transactions. This type of information must be formally documented so that the reclamation plan and reclamation surety requirements can be revised accordingly.

If possible, we ask that this information be provided to us no later than June 6, 1994. We apologize for the oversight and any inconvenience this may cause. Please contact me if I can answer questions or provide further clarification in this matter. I look forward to meeting you during our scheduled May 6, 1994 Board tour of the ongoing reclamation activities at the mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Wayne Hedberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." and last name "Hedberg" clearly legible.

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor  
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb  
Attachment  
cc: Lowell Braxton  
Minerals staff (route)  
M021004.sur



# Hecla Mining Company

ESCALANTE UNIT

DOGM  
MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

September 5, 1989

SEP 08 1989

Lowell Braxton  
Administrator  
Natural Resources Department  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

SUBJECT: Proposal for Closure of the Hecla Escalante Unit's  
Tailings Facility

Dear Mr. Braxton:

Hecla Mining Company is submitting a tailings facility closure plan for our Escalante Unit. As you may know, we are in the process of shutting down all Escalante Unit operations. We have recently closed the mining operations and have initiated approved reclamation activities on those sites. Our stockpiled ore will be depleted in August of 1990. At that time Hecla will shut down our milling and tailings operations. The plan submitted here is for the tailings facility and associated roads. A reclamation plan for mill and operation buildings will be submitted at a later date after salvage and disposal questions can be thoroughly evaluated by Hecla.

The plan is being submitted at this time so that funds can be allocated for specific reclamation activities. Through early planning, we hope to begin the material purchases, contractor bidding process, and other logistics, well in advance of the August 1990 shutdown date. By understanding your requirements, we can initiate these planning steps in the near future. We would like to take full advantage of the 1990 fall reclamation season while some of our employees are still on the payroll.

Hecla understands that other agencies may wish to review our proposal. Since Hecla recognizes the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to be the lead mining agency, we have enclosed four copies of the tailing closure proposal for your review and dispersal.

Please feel free to call me if any questions or comments arise.

Very truly yours,

Brent Willoughby  
Manager - Escalante Unit

BW;am

Enclosures

cc: Bryan Johnson



# RECLAMATION ESTIMATE

Hecla Mining Company

Escalante Silver Mine - Mill Tailings Facility

M/021/004

Iron County

last revision

02/01/94

Prepared by Utah State Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

filename

M21-04RV.WQ1

## Reclamation Details

- All structures and equipment to be removed from the office site (1.5 acre EST)
- Revised tailings cover: 10" capillary, 18" subsoil, 6" topsoil (65 acres)
- Hay incorporated into tailings subsoil & topsoil caps (2-3,000 lb/acre)
- Road to tailings reduced via ripping & seeding (5,800' x 12' = 1.6 acre)
- Impoundment runoff ditch constructed around tailings cap (7,200')
- Subsoil borrow areas ripped, topsoiled & seeded (HECLA ESTIMATE 31 acres)
- Surface layer of tailings to be compacted (ASSUME with a dozer)
- Rip topsoil stockpile area & drill seed (9 acre ESTIMATE)
- Monitor groundwater wells for 4 years after reclamation (quarterly)
- Fence maintenance 3 years (7,900 + ~ 10,000 LF, quarterly)
- Areas revegetated via drill seeding unless impractical (= > hand seeding)
- Disturbed acreage = office + tailings + borrow + roads + stockpile = 108

| Description                                 | Amount      | \$/Unit | Cost-\$   |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Structure demolition/removal                | sum-ASSUMED | 5,000   | 5,000     |
| Compaction of tailings surface (0.60 MPH) * | 65 acre     | 407     | 26,455    |
| Waste rock capillary barrier 10" *          | 87,389 CY   | 2.46    | 214,977   |
| Tailings subsoil cap 18" *                  | 157,300 CY  | 1.51    | 237,523   |
| Tailings topsoil cap 6" *                   | 52,433 CY   | 1.55    | 81,272    |
| Disc hay into tailings soils *              | 65 acre     | 250     | 16,250    |
| Ripping tailings road (0.40 mph) **         | 1.6 acre    | 603     | 965       |
| Runoff ditch construction **                | 7,200 ft    | 0.32    | 2,304     |
| Ripping borrow areas (0.60 mph) **          | 31 acre     | 407     | 12,617    |
| Rip topsoil stockpile area **               | 9.0 acre    | 407     | 3,663     |
| Reseed all disturbed areas                  | 108 acre    | 290     | 31,320    |
| Monitor groundwater (quarterly)             | 4 yr        | 1,200   | 4,800     |
| Fencing-borrow areas (LF estimated)         | 10,000 LF   | 1.00    | 10,000    |
| Mobilization                                | 5 units     | 1,000   | 5,000     |
| Fence maintenance (quarterly)               | 3 yr        | 400     | 1,200     |
| SUBTOTAL                                    |             |         | 653,345   |
| + 10% CONTINGENCY                           |             |         | 65,335    |
| SUBTOTAL                                    |             |         | 718,680   |
| + 5yr ESCAL (1.42%)                         |             |         | 52,496    |
| TOTAL                                       |             |         | 771,176   |
| ROUNDED TOTAL IN 1999-\$                    |             |         | \$771,000 |

\* Phase I Surety Reduction

\*\* Phase II Surety Reduction

Average cost per acre =

7,139 \$/acre